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MANUAL

FOR

MISSIONARIES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

OF MISSIONS

UNDER THE CARE OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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Published by Order of the Board.  
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PHILADELPHIA:
T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS, PRINTERS,
1 LODGE ALLEY.
1852.

IN the preparation of this Manual, the Secretary acknowledges himself indebted, for several valuable provisions and instructions, to the Manuals of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and of the Presbyterian Board, and to the Instructions given to the Missionaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. Each missionary and superintendent of missions will keep this Manual by him, and occasionally peruse it, that he may not write for information expressly contained herein.

 *For Index, see 3d page of Cover.*

MANUAL

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MISSIONARY MANUAL.

OBJECTS.

THE objects of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church are, "to enable the several Annual Conferences more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere; and also to assist in the support and promotion of missionary schools and missions in our own and in foreign countries."

VARIOUS MISSIONARY LABORERS.

1. In the Domestic Missions, under the care of the several conferences, ministers and preachers of the Gospel are mainly employed; and these, in conjunction with the official members of the church within their missions respectively, employ, as assistants, Sunday-school teachers, and occasionally day-school teachers, as the interests of the mission require and its ability will permit.

2. In the Foreign Missions are employed: 1st, ordained ministers of the Gospel; 2d, occasionally unordained preachers of the Gospel; 3, colporteurs; 4th, physicians; 5th, school teachers; 6th, catechists; 7th, occasionally printers, farmers, and mechanics; 8th, unmarried female teachers, but these only where they can find a home in the family of an intimate and reliable friend or relative within the mission. The ordained ministers are considered missionaries proper, and all others assistants in the great work, having more or less intimate connection with the mission. The wives of missionaries in Foreign Missions are justly considered as assistant missionaries.

Presiding elders, also, are superintendents of the Domestic Missions within their bounds severally, and should report accordingly.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MISSIONARIES.

1. Some qualifications are necessary to every missionary, and every assistant missionary, such as decided, enlightened, and uniform *piety*; in connection with right views of Christian doctrines and Christian duties, as acknowledged and taught in the Methodist Episcopal Church; and it is necessary that the spirit and practice of evangelical Christianity be constantly exhibited in the public and private conduct of each member of the mission.

2. Other qualifications are specially necessary to particular members of the mission.

(1.) The ordained minister and the preacher of the Gospel should each undertake his work *as a special personal duty laid on him by Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church*. He must feel that the Saviour requires him to go to distant lands or fields of labor, to preach the Gospel to those who sit in darkness and in the region and shadow of death; and he should look to the church, through her missionary organization, not so much to lay this duty on him as to assist and sustain him in accomplishing his great work. This is the true spirit of the missionary proper, and without it he cannot well bear up under the dangers, toils, and discouragements incident to the true missionary work.

(2.) The missionary should be a man of good common sense, of sound judgment, of quick discernment, and good knowledge of human nature; he should be of an amiable disposition, frank, generous, forbearing, and constantly inclined to accommodate others, and to render them happy and useful; he should be steady, firm, patient, persevering, cheerful; he should have the habit of promptly and thoroughly accomplishing whatever he undertakes.

(3.) His *health* should be good, and his constitution and habits such as give him promise of a fair share of health in the field of labor upon which he is about to enter. He

should be at least of medium stature; and it is desirable that he should be, not of forbidding, but rather of good appearance and pleasing manners.

(4.) He should be of good intellectual abilities; and have a well-ordered active mind, and furnished, to a fair extent, with useful knowledge, general and religious; and he should have the desire and the habit of continual improvement in knowledge and in piety. The greatness, sacredness, and value of his work will give scope for all these and still more qualifications. The world is to be enlightened and redeemed.

(5.) The *missionary physician* should have a competent medical education, according to the standard of this country; and he should go on his mission with the express and firm intention to make the practice of his profession directly subservient to the furtherance of the Gospel. To his medical knowledge he should add a competent religious and theological knowledge; that with the advantages of his medical skill he may the more readily impart the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord to those with whom he may have intercourse. In no case, without permission of the Board, may he receive compensation for medical services. It would be well if the physician were a minister of the Gospel.

(6.) *Teachers* should be well qualified for the work committed to them; and they should enter upon it, and pursue it from a sense of duty to God; a duty which they may not perform listlessly, but as for God, and in his sight. Theirs is a very important part of the missionary work.

(7.) *Mechanics* and *farmers* should be masters of the business of their respective departments, and resolved to make their labors subservient to the great designs of the mission. These are wanted in but few missions; but when they are wanted, they should be godly men, recommending the mission by their private and public conduct.

(8.) *Debts.* Every missionary must be out of debt, according to the requisition and administration of our discipline. But especially does the Board of Managers require that every missionary on a foreign station shall keep out of debt. He shall in no case engage in trade or business. He must re-

member the declaration of St. Paul : "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier;" all his time and talents must be given to his work in the mission; and that he may the more readily do this, the Board will have affectionate consideration of all his proper wants, and will faithfully endeavor to satisfy them. And there is not much doubt but that the church will enable the Board to do this so long as the missionary shall regulate his expenses by such a due regard to *economy* as may be found to consist with his health and comfort, and with the real demands of the work of God.

BY WHOM APPOINTED.

1. All ministers or preachers of the Gospel in the Domestic Missions are appointed annually by the bishop presiding in the conference, within whose bounds their work lies; and each presiding elder is superintendent of the missions in his district.

2. Every minister or preacher of the Gospel, sent to a Foreign Mission, is appointed by the bishop having, for the time being, the superintendence of the Foreign Missions. When he arrives in his mission he is subject to the special superintendent of his mission, under the instructions contained in his commission, or given by the Board; and, if no special instructions be contained in the commission or given by the Board, then he is subject to the special superintendent of the mission according to the Discipline, as the ministers and preachers in a district, within an annual conference, are subject to the presiding elder.

3. All other appointments in the Foreign Missions are made by the Board, or with their express consent and sanction, under previous orders of the General Missionary Committee; application should be made to the Board through the corresponding secretary, accompanied by satisfactory testimonials.

4. Application for an appointment to go to a Foreign Mission to preach the Gospel as a missionary, should be made directly to the bishop having, at the time, the superintend-

ence of our Foreign Missions. If the candidate have special reasons, he may apply to the bishop through the corresponding secretary.

5. It is understood, unless expressly stated to the contrary, that the missionary, going to a Foreign Mission, makes his work the work of his life; and he may not relinquish it, or return home, without express and proper authority given him so to do. In case of a providential personal emergency, a missionary, or superintendent of the mission, may return or be absent from his mission with the consent and sanction of the mission, provided the exigency be so pressing, in the judgment of the mission, that there is not time to obtain the proper authority from the bishop or the Board, and in such cases only.

TESTIMONIALS.

In case of application, as a missionary to preach the Gospel in a Foreign Mission, testimonials are expected to be furnished to the bishop having the authority to appoint, on the following particulars:—

1. Character of the applicant's piety.
2. Manner and effectiveness of his preaching.
3. His natural talents and temper, and the probability of his working happily with others.
4. His judgment, discretion, and common sense.
5. The extent and qualities of his education.
6. His habits of improving time, and of seizing opportunities of usefulness.
7. The habits of economy, of himself and his family.
8. His facility for acquiring influence over others.
9. His aptness in acquiring languages.
10. His personal appearance, manners, and address.
11. His character, habits, health, and constitution in view of his particular field of labor.

These testimonials should be furnished by the presiding elder of the applicant, and by those brethren who have labored with him in the conference work, and by any pious and judicious brethren who know him well. And if he be

a graduate of any of our colleges, or have been a student in any of our academies, the testimonials of his instructors should be produced.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUPPORT.

In Domestic Missions the appropriations are fixed by the authorities in each mission, and paid according to the regulations of the Discipline. An appropriation, of a greater or less amount, is usually made to each mission towards paying the allowance, by the mission committee of the conference within whose bounds the mission lies, out of moneys placed at the disposal of the conference by the joint annual meeting of the General Missionary Committee and Board of Managers. The Board is no further responsible for the support of missionaries employed in our Domestic Missions.

In *Foreign Missions* the quarterage, according to discipline, is payable by the Board from the date of the missionary's commission, unless a specific date is mentioned in the commission; the appropriation commences upon his arriving on the field of labor, when his quarterage ceases, being merged in the aggregate appropriation. It is the policy of the Board to give a specific and fixed appropriation; and to allow a specific and fixed sum for rent of dwelling, varying according to the size of the family, and the circumstances under which the missionary labors. A reasonable portion of this appropriation for the year may be paid in advance, and the remainder for the first year, and the appropriation for each succeeding year shall be drawn for by the superintendent of the mission, *quarterly*, unless special instructions are given to the mission that the salaries will be paid in some other way.

In any mission where the Board find themselves unprepared to assign specific appropriations, or to make specific arrangements in the case, the actual expenses of the missionary or missionaries will be paid quarterly, of which a particular quarterly account must be rendered to the Treasurer of the Board, at New York, by the superintendent of the mission, if there be one, and if not by the missionary himself.

SUPERANNUATED MISSIONARIES, THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

The Board, by the Constitution (Art. 5), has authority "to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, widows, and orphans of missionaries, who may not be provided for by their annual conferences respectively, it being understood that they shall not receive more than is allowed by the Discipline to other superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans."

EXPENSES.

The Board will not be responsible for any expenses incurred before the missionary is acting, in view of his mission, under the direction of the bishop superintendent of Foreign Missions, or of the Board; and each missionary is considered under such direction from the date of his commission, or from a specific date mentioned in the commission, if such specific date be mentioned.

The expenses for which the Board will be responsible are: the travelling and incidental expenses of the missionary and his family, if he have one (which include the boarding or subsistence of his family), arising expressly in pursuance of his commission; and also the freight of his goods, and any other expenses expressly authorized by the Board or the bishop appointing. The extra travelling and incidental expenses, arising in his field of labor in pursuance of his work, must be reported to the Board quarterly for their decision.

MARRIAGE.

As a general rule, every missionary in a foreign mission should be a married man; and his wife should be of one heart and one mind with him. It is almost indispensable that she should have good health; and it is very desirable that she be intelligent, and of pleasing manners and conversation, and having practical knowledge of domestic affairs. The wife ought to be truly an assistant missionary.

Pious young men in colleges, and those who have just entered upon the work of the ministry, should carefully ponder the question, whether they be not called to the missionary work; and if, in their judgment and conscience, they be, and the way is opened to them, they ought not to be in haste to contract marriage, that they may do it the more judiciously and with advice, as their departure for their distant field draws nigh.

OUTFIT.

The outfit of a missionary includes such clothing, bedding (when the ship does not furnish it), and other articles necessary for comfort during the voyage or journey, and immediately on arriving at the field of labor, as would not be required were the missionary and his family to remain in the work at home; also the books necessary in his special field of labor. The amount will vary according to the circumstances of the appointment, the length and nature of the voyage or journey, and the condition of things at the time in the field of labor. The outfit in each particular case will, therefore, be determined by the Board, and is payable to the missionary at his pleasure, after notice given him of the same. But our experience leads us to advise that it should not all be expended before setting out for the mission: reserve a little for exigency there.

Each missionary about to depart to the foreign missionary work, upon application at the office in New York, 199 Mulberry Street, by letter or in person, shall receive such information as the office can give, touching the articles requisite in his particular case.

FURNITURE.

As a general rule, not much furniture should be sent out to distant missions; only such as cannot be conveniently obtained in the country whither the missionary goes. The transportation of furniture is a heavy item in the expenditure of the Board.

Any furniture in any foreign mission, purchased with money appropriated by the board for the same, is the pro-

perty of the Board, and must be carefully preserved, and an inventory thereof made and kept in the records of the mission; and a copy of the same sent to the office of the Board in New York.

BOXES OR CASKS.

Strong and well-made boxes of medium size, or in case of long and damp voyages, strong water-tight casks, are necessary for the safe conveyance of goods. If they are to be carried by horses or mules any considerable distance, boxes are preferable, and should be about three feet long, eighteen inches deep, fourteen inches wide, and gross weight, not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds. It would be well, indeed, almost necessary, to mark each box or cask with a letter or number, and make and keep a memorandum of the contents of each.

Each box, cask, or package should be plainly and strongly marked with the name of the owner and place of destination; and forwarded to the care of Mission Rooms, 199 Mulberry St., N. Y. (unless otherwise expressly advised); and should reach New York a week or ten days before the sailing of the vessel in which the shipment is to be made.

PASSPORT.

A passport, obtained from the Secretary of State at Washington, is indispensable to missionaries going to foreign countries. The following notice relative to the giving of passports to citizens of the United States designing to visit foreign countries, was issued from the Department of State at Washington, April 4, 1835; viz.:—

“As citizens of the United States, going to foreign countries, may be subjected to inconvenience for the want of sufficient evidence of their national character, the Secretary of State deems it proper to give notice, that *Passports* will be granted by him, *gratis*, to such citizens, on his being satisfied that they are entitled to receive them.

“To prevent delay in obtaining a passport, the application should be accompanied by such evidence as may show the applicant to be a citizen of the United States, where that fact is not already known

to the Department of State, and with a description of his person, embracing the following particulars, viz.:—

“Age, — years; stature, — feet, — inches; forehead, —; eyes, —; nose, —; mouth, —; chin, —; hair, —; complexion, —; face, —.

“Where the applicant is to be accompanied by his wife, children, or servants, or females under his protection, it will be sufficient to state the names and ages of such persons, and their relationship to the applicant; as one passport may serve for the whole.

“Certificates of citizenship, or passports, granted by the different States and municipal authorities in the United States, are not recognized by the officers of foreign governments; and, for the want of necessary official information as to those authorities, the ministers and consuls of the United States in foreign countries cannot authenticate such documents.”

The description must be carefully filled up, and the application attested by a notary public. If no notary be at hand, take advice and give the best legal attestation you can obtain, and send the application so attested directly to the Secretary of State at Washington, explaining to him that you have obtained the best attestation in your power; and naming the place to which he will be pleased to send it; and to whose care. This you should do immediately upon receiving your appointment. No one can do it for you, unless you be present to be described as required.

YOUR ADDRESS.

It is absolutely necessary that each superintendent of missions, and each missionary in the Foreign Missions, and in the Indian Missions should keep the Corresponding Secretary informed of his post-office address. Give the name of the post-office, the County and State, or Territory. This applies also to presiding elders having missions within their districts.

DEPARTURE FOR THE FIELD.

In almost every case the board engages the passage of the missionary and his family; and it is our policy to make the voyage or journey as safe and comfortable as possible. If the departure is from New York, the missionary should be

in the city about one week before the day of departure, not longer, except for special reasons; he should give notice of the day he and his family may be expected, that suitable lodgings may be provided. He should keep us informed where letters will reach him from time to time.

Upon his arrival he will be *assisted*, to the best of our ability, in making his preparations, and in embarking; but he must be principal in these matters, and give himself to them. He must remember that we are assisting him to accomplish the great work *God* hath required him to do.

In his preparations to embark, or to depart, he should separate those articles which he will need on his voyage or journey, from those which he will not need until he reaches his field of labor; and he should put them in strong and fair sized trunks, and in satchels, that they may be easily accessible. Generally, one such trunk will contain what is needed for one adult person. But judgment should be exercised under the conditions of the case; and care should be taken not to have an excess of baggage at hand.

THE VOYAGE.

It commonly happens that two or more missionaries and mission families sail in the same ship; they are, probably, brought together for the first time. It is very important, both for their own comfort and for the honor and influence of the holy cause of missions, that they should really feel and act as brethren in Christ, as one family. Let them earnestly watch and pray that God may enable them to cultivate with each other a spirit of love and charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

When their friends have left the vessel, they should commence at once to adjust their berths, and arrange their baggage. If practicable, this should be done before the vessel sails. It will be found necessary to attend to many small matters, which, if omitted at first, may occasion much inconvenience, if sea-sickness finds them unprepared.

The arrangement of the religious exercises on board the vessel is sometimes a subject of delicacy. Whenever it is

practicable and expedient, one of the officers of the Board will converse with the captain on the subject before the sailing of the vessel. Where this cannot be done, one of the missionary company, appointed by the others for that purpose, should have an interview with him, at a suitable time, and when he is alone. Whatever has been previously agreed upon should be requested as a favor, not demanded as a right.

The intercourse with the sailors should be with the approbation of the captain, and in strict accordance with the rules of the ship. It will be best to postpone all efforts for their benefit till the ship is fairly at sea.

The windward side of the quarter-deck is properly the captain's place, and should be occupied by no one when he is on deck. He is entitled to respect as the commander of the ship, and as the master of the family. In conversation at the table, subjects unpleasant to him, or in which for want of knowledge he cannot take a part, should be avoided.

When the weather is rough, passengers for the most part should remain below; and at all times they should be careful not to be in the way of the officers or sailors, when engaged in their respective duties.

All complaints of the food at table, of the accommodations, or of the ship itself, are to be most carefully guarded against.

When the voyage is completed, a plain statement of the principal occurrences on board should be communicated to the Corresponding Secretary. If disappointment has been experienced in any part of the treatment received, it is not generally expedient to send complaints to relatives and friends. Such letters sometimes get into the newspapers, and the Christian community are surprised to see so much account made respecting matters, some of them small, and all of them of short continuance.

CONDUCT IN YOUR MISSION.

1. If missionaries of sister churches be in your vicinity, manifest to them, in all suitable ways, a disposition to cultivate fraternal feelings and relations.

2. Be careful neither to do or say anything that may bring you into collision with the lawful government, within whose jurisdiction your mission lies. Take no part in the merely civil disputes or local politics of the country, either verbally or by correspondence with any person at home. You are not to become a party in any civil quarrel, but are to "please all men for their good to edification;" intent upon the solemn work of your office.

3. You are to observe cheerfully the rules for the government and administration of your mission, as contained in the Discipline, the Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in the instructions given to you or the superintendent of your mission by the bishop having charge of Foreign Missions, and by the Board through the Corresponding Secretary

4. The Board and the bishop superintending look to the superintendent of each mission for its just and faithful administration in all respects. The superintendent is the responsible head of the mission; the acts of the mission, as a mission, and the administration of its affairs, must have the sanction of the superintendent.

It is not intended by this, that the other members of the mission shall not have a voice in its affairs, both general and particular, and more especially in any matter concerning themselves severally, they are to have a voice; they are to be consulted. They may propose such measures as they judge good for the mission; but then to give them effect the superintendent must concur; because the superintendent is the person responsible to the Board and to the bishop having the superintendence of our Foreign Missions. His authority and relation in the mission are the same as those of a presiding elder in the district, within the particular instructions given him by the superintending bishop, and by the Board through the Corresponding Secretary.

All official communications to the superintendent, involving directly or indirectly the interest or action of any other members of the mission, should be frankly communicated to him. This course is necessary for preserving harmony and mutual confidence among the members of the mission.

Each branch of the mission which is in charge of any particular member of the mission, should be carefully represented to the superintendent in his conferences or conversations with the missionaries; and the opinion and advice of the missionary in charge of any particular part of the work should have due weight in reference to that part of the work. Thus the particular parts of the mission will be under the direct administration of the missionaries in charge severally, and yet under the general supervision of the superintendent, who is the responsible head of the mission.

If practicable, there should be a monthly, or at least a quarterly meeting of the mission, for the purpose of devising the best plans for prosecuting the work, for auditing the accounts of the mission, and for enabling the superintendent to make out an accurate quarterly report. This applies particularly to Foreign Missions not yet organized into annual conferences. Where they are so organized, then each presiding elder is required to make a quarterly report of the work under his superintendence. And if he cannot visit each part of his mission personally, the missionary must report to him quarterly in writing, by mail.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Your correspondence as a missionary is due to the Board and bishop superintending.

2. Private correspondence to friends, or correspondence to other parties, has frequently been published to the detriment of the missionary cause at home and abroad. You should be exceedingly careful with respect to the facts you communicate to us for publication, and to the manner of communicating them. Never write anything, or in any manner, which you would not be willing to see returned and published over your own name, where you are at work.

3. *Form of your correspondence.* 1. Let everything be written in a plain bold hand, and with margin of half an inch on each side of the page, and not crowded. It is exceedingly vexatious to receive from a missionary a letter that can scarcely be read at all; frequently the Board refuses

to hear it read, because it is so difficult to read. 2. Be careful to write by itself on one piece of paper what you are willing should be published; on another, what you wish to be submitted to the Board; on another, what is intended for the secretary only; and on another, what for the treasurer; or, if written on one sheet, let the matter be so written that each part can be separated from the other. If on separate pieces of paper, all should be put in one envelope, and addressed to the Corresponding Secretary. Proper names should be written *very plainly*. 3. All remittances of money, all drafts or reports of expenditures in pursuance of the action of the Board or bishop superintending, or arising out of the legitimate action of the mission, must be addressed to the *treasurer*.

SUBJECTS FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

These are intimated in the general and special instructions found on subsequent pages; but, for convenience of reference, they are enumerated here, especially with reference to Foreign Missions and Missions among the Indians.

1. The peculiar customs of the people among whom you labor.

2. Their language, habits, laws, and government.

3. Their religious views and worship.

4. The degree and character of their civilization.

5. Their views and feelings with respect to Christianity, and its progress among them, if it have made any.

6. Accounts of particular conversions and experiences.

With respect to the subjects enumerated in numbers five and six particularly, you should not allow yourselves, under the influence of religious hope or joy, to give any high coloring of facts, but just and sober views of things as, upon careful observation and mature reflection, you judge them to be.

Other things may be included in your correspondence which, in your judgment, tend to illustrate and advance the interests of missions.

YOUR JOURNAL.

It is positively required of every missionary in the foreign work, to keep a regular journal, and to send to the corresponding secretary monthly, or at least quarterly, such extracts as may give a fair account of his particular labors, success, and prospects. This is necessary for the information of the Board; and will afford information and satisfaction to the church, should we deem it suitable to be published in whole or in part.

Such abstracts may be sent without the attention or inspection of the special superintendent of the mission.

But the official quarterly report of each missionary should be made to his superintendent, if he have one; that it may be by the superintendent combined with the other quarterly reports from other parts of the mission, and forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary. So also should the annual report be made through the superintendent.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

All propositions for further expenditures in the employment of additional missionaries or assistants, or for publications, rents, salaries, &c., should be made by the superintendent through the Corresponding Secretary to the Board. In spiritual matters simply, such as the plan of the work, expansion or contraction of the same, or advice in matters of discipline, or application to send out more missionaries to preach the Gospel, or for permission to leave the work, the superintendent should address the bishop having charge of Foreign Missions. If he have special reasons for it, his communications can be made to the bishop through the Corresponding secretary.

DRAFTS.

Every superintendent of a mission, and every missionary is prohibited from drawing any draft without proper authority given him, or from drawing for a greater amount than is properly authorized; and notice of each draft should be given always in advance.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MISSIONARIES.*

DEAR BROTHER: Your appointment as a missionary indicates the confidence which the appointing power has in your wisdom and integrity, as well as the great necessity of a faithful application of yourself to all those duties which grow out of your relation to the church and to the world. To some of these duties permit me to call your attention.

I. As a Methodist *minister*, it is expected that you will attend to all those duties, so far as they are applicable to the state of your mission, which are prescribed in our Discipline for those who have the charge of circuits. On this head, therefore, it is only necessary to refer you to those sections of the Discipline which treat of the duties of a Methodist preacher to God, to his brethren, and to those who are more immediately committed to his charge.

II. As a Methodist *missionary*, it is expected that you will faithfully attend to the following directions:—

1. It is made your duty to form your circuit, unless you labor among the slaves, into an auxiliary missionary society, and to make regular class and quarterly collections, and to transmit the amount so raised to the treasurer of the Parent Society, either by indorsing it on your draft, or by sending the money. The reason of this requirement is founded on the very obvious principle, that it is the duty of all men to help themselves according to their several ability, and to contribute their quota toward defraying the expenses attendant upon the worship of God, building houses, supporting ministers, &c. And this plain Scriptural duty should be inculcated

* The general and special instructions which follow, were published, some years since, by order of the Board.

upon all who hear the Gospel, that they may be early trained to its performance, that thereby the Missionary Society may be aided in its benevolent efforts to diffuse abroad the Gospel of the grace of God. It is hence expected that you will punctually attend to this part of your duty in all cases where it is practicable, let the amount collected be ever so small.

2. Another duty enjoined upon all our missionaries is to send regular quarterly reports to the Corresponding Secretary. By referring to the Constitution of the Society, you will perceive that the spirit of this rule is complied with when the *superintendent* of a missionary district, which may include a number of circuits or stations, sends his report of the whole work, and therefore, in such cases, it is not necessary for each missionary to send a separate report. By attending to this requirement in this way, much time and expense may be saved. In general, these reports should be short, embracing the principal facts; or, if lengthened out, be filled with those incidents or historical details which alone can make them interesting and profitable. If you are on a *foreign* station, or among the *aborigines* of our country, those facts respecting the peculiar customs, language, and habits of the people—their laws and government—their individual conversions and progress in Christianity, will always render your reports entertaining and instructive. But mere common-place observations on topics which come under the eye of every one in any place, or speculations on abstract truths, unless needful to illustrate the grace of God in Christ Jesus, are dull and monotonous to the reader, and convey not the information which is expected from the report of a missionary.

You will also recollect that these reports, if published, as it is desirable they should be, will return to the people about whom you speak: and hence the necessity of saying nothing that will give just cause of offence, or which you would not be willing to express to their face. Much injury has been done to the cause of missions, in some instances, by exaggerated accounts of the wickedness and miseries of the people, made apparently with a view to awaken sympathy, and to enlist the benevolence of the community in their behalf. These errors should be scrupulously avoided, lest “your good be evil spoken of.”

In the report which you may transmit toward the close of the missionary year, that is, the one which will reach the Secretary by the *first of April* in each year, you are requested not to forget the following items of information: 1. The num-

ber of church members, distinguishing between the Indian, white, and colored members. 2. Number of missionaries employed, whites and natives. 3. Of schools, teachers, and scholars. These items of information are essential to make out an accurate statement of the condition of the several missions for the Annual Report. And facts of this character are worth a hundred general remarks, and for the want of which our Annual Reports are often very imperfect and unsatisfactory.

III. The mere fact of your being a missionary throws you into the midst of a people of strange habits, of different modes of thinking, and who, in many instances, are of various sects of religion. These circumstances necessarily render your task difficult; and make it needful to use great caution and prudence, lest you excite such a prejudice against you as to obstruct your usefulness and prevent your success. All these habits and prejudices, not in themselves sinful, should be respected, or, at least, so far tolerated as not to make them matters of conscience and controversy. Surrounded as you are by these circumstances, while you strenuously maintain "the truth as it is in Jesus," and "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints," it is highly important that you should cultivate with other Christian denominations, with whom you may come in contact, a spirit of Christian love and union, and thus endeavor to strengthen each other's hands in the great work in which you are mutually engaged. While contending against the superstitions of paganism in its various forms, and condemning those vices which corrupt the soul, it should be made manifest, by the manner in which you do these things, that you are actuated solely by a love to perishing souls, and by an ardent thirst for their salvation. Thus shielded by the purity of your motives, and the exemplariness of your conduct, you will be able to pass through the fire of opposition unhurt; and should you even fail in the accomplishment of your object, you will have the consoling satisfaction of having done all things for the glory of God in Christ Jesus, and the salvation of the souls committed to your trust.

IV. It need hardly be added, that your success in your mission mainly depends upon the uprightness of your conduct among the people. The pious and holy deportment of a missionary is a living comment upon the doctrine he preaches, and a lively exhibition of those Christian virtues which he

recommends. Everything, therefore, which would cause your motives to be suspected, and render you in any way an object of contempt by the sober and thinking part of the community, should be scrupulously avoided. So to behave on all occasions as to let "no man despise you," on account of inconsistencies of conduct, frivolity of speech or manners, or of loving "this present world" more than the cause of God, is essential to enable you to gain the confidence and affection of the people to whom you are sent, and without which all your labor will be in vain.

But much more especially is your "sufficiency of God." Not by human might, wisdom, or prudence,, but by *God's Spirit*, must we look for success in the great work of "converting sinners from the error of their ways." To maintain, therefore, constant communion with Him from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, by the constant exercise of prayer and faith, and a life of self-denial, is above all other things most essential for a successful issue of your labors. To his grace, then, you are recommended, in the hope that he will guide and sanctify all your words and actions, and make you instrumental in enlarging the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ in the world.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

DEAR BROTHER: You are hereby instructed by the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church:—

I. To give your entire attention to the great business in which you have engaged, and to undertake no business or enterprise which will in the least interfere with your appropriate work; and you are also to see that the missionaries, teachers, and all others under your supervision, shall do the same.

II. You are to report directly to the Board, through the Corresponding Secretary, all matters which relate to the state of the mission, and to consider no instructions as legitimate which do not come from the official organ of the Board.

III. You are to make a detailed report at least once in each year, and oftener if practicable, embracing the following particulars, with any other matters of which you may judge it important that the Board should be advised, namely:—

As to the persons employed in the mission—missionaries, teachers, physicians, artisans, &c. &c.; and in relation to each of these, whether they have families, and if so, of what number, what labor they perform, and what salary they receive. Also how many pupils in the schools, and what number of each sex.

As to the *fiscal* state of the mission—what amounts have been received from the Board, distinguishing between cash and merchandise. What amounts from the mission, distinguishing between contributions, produce, meat, or receipts for services rendered by the mission physician or artisans to those who are not connected with the mission.

As to the estimated value of the mission property, distinguishing between real estate, stock, goods in store, produce, furniture, farming utensils, mechanics' tools, &c. &c.

IV. The superintendents of our Foreign Missions are hereby directed to keep a diary of all their proceedings, as well as of the operations of the missions generally; and to require all the missionaries under their supervision, as far as it may be practicable, to do the same. These diaries should contain not only the operations of the ministers, but of the secular members of the mission. And it will be expected that these diaries will be transmitted to the Corresponding Secretary by every opportunity, up to the time such opportunities may occur.

V. You are particularly instructed on no account to exceed in your expenditures the amount appropriated for the support of the mission, which amount will be annually communicated by the Corresponding Secretary.

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